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A number of acorns have been found with two fertilized and developed ovules. The presence of the supernumerary seed is betrayed by the unsymmetrical shape of the acorn. The rightful occupant—if might makes right—is usually well developed, and pushes out its radicle earlier than does the intruder, which is correspondingly smaller and flattened and twisted out of shape. Occasionally, when the supernumerary seed is large, if its position is favorable it gets its radicle out of the ruptured apex first. At all events it makes a brave effort to reach soil and sunlight. A few acorns have been found in which the two plantlets had developed into two well-formed seedlings. Acorns containing more than one seed have all been found under young trees. In no case have I found such under aged trees.

BIOLOGICAL LABORATORY, PACIFIC UNIVERSITY.

Explanation of Plate 247.

FIG. 1.—"c," cotyledon; "f," foliar appendages; "p," petiole; "pl," plumule; "h," hypocotyl. The dotted lines indicate the portion excised.

FIG. 2.—The seedling after the wound had healed and the second root-tip had formed. R—original radicle; R_2—the rootlet of the cut petiole.

FIG. 2a.—A seed, the petiole of which was cut. After healing the separated petiole (p) produced two rootlets. The plumule continued to develop as seen.

FIG. 3.—Shows the end view of the seedling with three cotyledons, the petioles of which are shown in situ. The plumule (pl) projects through the smaller, paired petioles p_2 and p_3.

FIG. 4.—The same with the husk removed, and the three cotyledons outspread. The cotyledons c_2 and c_3 belong to the petioles p_2 and p_3 (in Fig. 3) respectively.

FIG. 4a.—Transverse section through the base of the plumule of Fig. 4.

FIG. 5.—An acorn with the husk removed showing the supernumerary seed in situ. Its hypocotyl (h) had grown, the radicle partially decayed and thrown off two new rootlets (a and b).

Contribution to the Characeous Plants of Maine—1.

BY F. L. HARVEY.

So far as we know but little attention has been given to the plants of this order by collectors in Maine; the species named in Redfield & Rand's Catalogue of the Plants of Mt. Desert being the only record we know of regarding them. We have recently been considering the few species found in the Blake Herbarium of the Maine State College, and, adding our own observations, bring the record to date.

Research will no doubt bring to light many more species. We are under obligation to Dr. Allen for professional courtesies. We will be pleased to learn of other species occurring in the State, or to know of Maine collectors of these interesting plants.

ORDER CHARACEAE.

FAMILY I. NITELLAE.

1. *Nitella opaca* Ag.
   Blake Herb. Aroostook River (Blake), Sept., 1878.
   Redfield & Rand's Cat. Plants of Mt. Desert, p. 227.
   Common in small streams about Orono (Harvey).
2. *N. flexilis* Ag.
   Western Maine (Kate Furbish.)
   Rand & Redfield's Cat. Mt. Desert, p. 227.

Miss Furbish's plants show the monoecious fruiting and the abruptly acuminate leaves. The plants from Mt. Desert are doubtfully placed here by the editors of that catalogue.

FAMILY II. CHARACEAE.

3. *Chara coronata* A. Br.
   Aroostook R., Me. (Blake) Sept. 1878.
4. *C. contraria* A. Br.
   Caribou, Me., Sept., 1878.
   The stream not mentioned in Blake's notes.
5. *C. fragilis* Desv.
   Very common in various streams in Penobscot Co. (Harvey.)

In Sunkhoze Stream, occurring on gravelly and rocky bottoms for a distance of ten miles, the patches sometimes covering the bottom of the stream for rods.